

A RESOLUTION to honor Coach Dee Harris of Sparta for his outstanding contributions to Tennessee high school athletics.

WHEREAS, it is important that this legislative body honor those people who through their professional endeavors are a credit to their community, family and school; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding person is Mr. Dee Harris who coached football for over 20 years in the Tennessee high school system; and

WHEREAS, a native of Sparta, and a 1948 graduate of White County High School, Coach Harris was an exceptional athlete, excelling in both football and basketball; and

WHEREAS, Coach Harris received a football scholarship at Middle Tennessee State University, where he played halfback for legendary Coach Charles "Bubber" Murphy; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from MTSU in 1954, Dee Harris began his illustrious career as an assistant coach at Pulaski, and a year later took over the coaching reins at Watertown; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Coach Harris embarked upon an unprecedented 19-year career in Sparta at White County High School, over the course of which the Warriors posted a record of 115-75-5, and a 5-2-1 bowl record; and

WHEREAS, his 1959-1961 teams compiled a remarkable 28-1-2 record with the 1961 team finishing as State Runner-up; and

WHEREAS, well-liked and respected by everyone in the coaching profession and in Sparta, Coach Harris displays the common touch, working well with young and old alike. He has served as a source of guidance and inspiration to his players, twenty-five of whom received college scholarships and two of whom play football in the professional ranks; and

WHEREAS, for his exceptional coaching abilities, Coach Harris has been duly recognized by the Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame, receiving that august body's Contribution to Football Award; he has also been selected Mid-State Coach of the Year, has coached in two TSSAA All-Star football games, and has been duly honored by the TSSAA for his contributions to high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the most fitting tribute to Dee Harris and his exemplary coaching legacy occurred when the fieldhouse at the new Warrior Stadium was named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, his many honors and accolades aside, Coach Harris is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his devoted wife, Rosemary; and their two sons, Mike and Steve, both of whom made names for themselves as athletes on past Warrior football teams; and

WHEREAS, retired since 1991, Coach Harris and his wife continue to maintain active roles in the Sparta community; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to recognize those Tennesseans who have contributed significantly to their chosen professions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Coach Dee Harris for his many coaching accomplishments and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Coach Harris with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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